

The utilization certificates in respect of the funds released under (ii) above in 2005-06 has been received. Also, Utilization Certificate for an amount of Rs. 31.80 lakhs released under the scheme at (iii) above has been received.

(d) and (e) A proposal for a sum of Rs. 134.28 lakhs for Hostel has been received during the current year. Similarly, proposals amounting to Rs. 121.03 lakhs have been received under Scheme for Coaching & Allied Assistance for weaker sections including SC, OBC & minorities. It is **not** possible to indicate a definite time frame for acceptance of the proposals.

Welfare measures for senior citizens

1307. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 77 million senior citizens in the country who may account for 301 million—17 per cent of our population by 2051 and who cast 24 per cent of the total votes during the elections;

(b) whether it is a fact that unlike, India, other countries like China (143 million), Japan (25 million) and United States (50 Million) are fully meeting demands of their senior citizens; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give them facilities like medical, residential, financial and legal help etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per the population projections of the United Nations, the number of persons aged 60+ years and above in 2006 is 8,99,22,000. The figure is estimated to increase to 32,96,83,000 by 2050 which will constitute 21 % of the total population at that time. The data regarding total votes cast by senior citizens is not available.

(b) and (c) Information regarding facilities available to the aged in other countries is not available. However, the Government is already providing facilities like food, shelter, financial security, etc. to the eligible elderly as prescribed under various schemes.